

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113291

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KN, KS

SUBJECT: KOREA CORE GROUP MEETING: MAY 18

REF: A) USUN 1496 B) USUN 1539

1. APPRECIATE FULL REPORTING OF MAY 11 CORE GROUP
MEETING. WE ARE PLEASED WITH WILLINGNESS OF REGULAR
MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE AND WITH CAREFUL ROK PREPARATIONS
THAT PRESAGE FURTHER USEFUL CONSULTATIONS.

2. FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND TALKING
POINTS FOR SUBJECTS LIKELY TO BE RAISED AT MAY 18 CORE
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GROUP MEETING.

A) NORTH KOREAN LETTERS TO USG OFFICIALS. LETTER
EXCHANGE BETWEEN CARTER AND KIM IL-SONG WAS MATTER OF
PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THROUGH NEWSWEEK DISCLOSURE, WHEREAS
HO TAM'S LETTER TO VANCE WAS KNOWN ONLY TO ROKG. WE
DO NOT KNOW WHY ROKG CHOSE TO INFORM CORE GROUP

MEMBERS OF SECOND LETTER, THUS HINTING AT A DPRK-US DIALOGUE. SHOULD YOU BE QUERIED ABOUT THIS EXCHANGE, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT HO TAM LETTER TO SECRETARY WAS DELIVERED TO DEPARTMENT BY AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO HAD BEEN IN PYONGYANG EARLIER IN YEAR. LETTER URGED BILATERAL

US-NORTH KOREAN TALKS. OUR ONLY RESPONSE WAS TO INFORM AMERICAN INTERMEDIARY ORALLY THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO MEET WITH THE NORTH KOREANS IF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ROKG PARTICIPATED.

B) DPRK BEHAVIOR. YOU MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT NORTH KOREANS POINTEDLY SAID AT RECENT MAC MEETING CALLED BY UNC THAT THEY HAD REFRAINED FROM CALLING MAC MEETINGS TO SHOW THEIR "GOOD INTENTIONS" AND THEIR DESIRE THAT KOREAN SITUATION WOULD IMPROVE. WE BELIEVE NORTH KOREANS HAVE IN FACT SHOWED RESTRAINT, THE TIME LAPSE BETWEEN THIS MAC MEETING AND THE LAST BEING THE LONGEST SINCE THE ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED IN 1953. TENOR OF KIM IL-SONG'S INTERVIEW WITH YOMIURI SHIMBUN EDITOR AND RELATIVELY MODERATE NORTH KOREAN POSTURE AT NACCFM ALSO REINFORCE OUR BELIEF THAT PYONGYANG HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO PRESS FOR ANOTHER UNGA OFFENSIVE.

C) IMPACT OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL ON UNC. AS WE WILL SOON BE CONSULTING WITH THE ROKG ON THE MODALITIES FOR WITHDRAWING OUR TROOPS, AND WILL BE DECIDING WITH THE ROKG QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE UNC, YOU SHOULD TRY TO AVOID EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT. IF CONFIDENTIAL

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CORE GROUP MEMBERS BRING UP THIS SUBJECT, THEY SHOULD BE TOLD THAT, WHILE WE APPRECIATE THEIR COMMENTS, WE BELIEVE DETAILED DISCUSSION IS PREMATURE AT THIS TIME.

D) NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS. WE BELIEVE THIS SUBJECT SHOULD OCCUPY PRINCIPAL ATTENTION OF CORE GROUP. WE NOTE THAT ROK CHAIRMAN ASKED GROUP AT CONCLUSION OF MAY 11 MEETING TO CONSIDER IDEA OF APPROACHING THIRD COUNTRY FOR ASSISTANCE IN ASCERTAINING NORTH KOREAN VIEWS. IF THIS IDEA REEMERGES YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH IT PROVIDED INQUIRY CONDUCTED IN MANNER WHICH DOES NOT DISPLAY ANY ANXIETY ON PART OF ROKG OR CORE GROUP. CORE GROUP SHOULD IN ANY CASE TRY TO MAKE BEST POSSIBLE ESTIMATE NOW OF NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS.

E) CANADIANS MAY RAISE IN CORE GROUP SUGGESTION GIVEN US MAY 17 (SEPTTEL) THAT CORE GROUP CEASE OPERATION IN ORDER NOT TO PROVOKE ACTIVITY ON PART OF OTHER SIDE. IF

THIS OCCURS, YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO OTHER REACTIONS, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE OF KOREA AND JAPAN, AND STEER CONCLUSION TOWARD LOW PROFILE CORE GROUP POSTURE, INVOLVING PERHAPS ONE MEETING EACH IN JUNE AND JULY TO COMPARE NOTES BUT NOT COMPLETE CESSATION OF ACTIVITY.

CHRISTOPHER

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